

**COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS****IN ASCENDING ORDER WITH STATUS INDICATOR**

Claim 1 (currently amended): In a system comprising a network and at least one mobile station (MS) for enabling communications with the at least one MS, the system capable of performing a rescue procedure for rescuing a MS ~~having a connection with the network that has become a potentially failing connection for which an acknowledgement failure has been detected~~, a method for adjusting pilot signal strength add and drop thresholds T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R used by the MS ~~having the potentially failing connection~~ in determining an updated active set of pilots for use by the MS in the rescue procedure, the method comprising:

incrementally lowering T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R by an amount STEP\_dec\_thres at one or more specific time instants t<sub>N</sub>, N = 1,2,...M during the rescue procedure, each time instant separated by a time Td.

Claim 2 (original): The method as recited in claim 1, further including lowering T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R in accordance with pilot signal strengths (Ec/Io values) measured at the MS.

Claim 3 (original): The method as recited in claim 1, further including lowering T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R by not more than a total amount MAX\_dec\_thres during the rescue procedure.

Claim 4 (original): The method as recited in claim 1, further including incrementally adjusting Td between time instants T<sub>N</sub>.

Claim 5 (original): The method as recited in claim 2, further including increasing Td between one or more time instants T<sub>N</sub> if a combined pilot Ec/Io for the updated active set of the MS is higher than a predetermined desired combined pilot Ec/Io.

Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~The method as recited in claim 2, further including:~~ In a system comprising a network and at least one mobile station (MS) for enabling communications with the at least one MS, the system capable of performing a rescue procedure for rescuing a MS for which an acknowledgement failure has been detected, a method for adjusting pilot signal strength add and drop thresholds  $T_{ADD\_R}$  and  $T_{DROP\_R}$  used by the MS in determining an updated active set of pilots for use by the MS in the rescue procedure, the method comprising:

incrementally lowering  $T_{ADD\_R}$  and  $T_{DROP\_R}$  by an amount  $STEP\_dec\_thres$  at one or more specific time instants  $t_N$ ,  $N = 1, 2, \dots, M$  during the rescue procedure, each time instant separated by a time  $T_d$ ;

lowering  $T_{ADD\_R}$  and  $T_{DROP\_R}$  in accordance with pilot signal strengths (Ec/Io values) measured at the MS;

increasing  $T_d$  between one or more time instants  $T_N$  if a difference between a combined pilot Ec/Io for the updated active set of the MS and the combined pilot Ec/Io for a previous updated active set of the MS is larger than a predetermined threshold; and

decreasing  $T_d$  between one or more time instants  $T_N$  if the difference between the E for the updated active set of the MS and the E for a previous updated active set of the MS is smaller than the predetermined threshold.

Claim 7 (original): The method as recited in claim 1, further including incrementally adjusting  $STEP\_dec\_thres$  at one or more time instants  $T_N$ .

Claim 8 (currently amended): ~~The method as recited in claim 7, further including~~ In a system comprising a network and at least one mobile station (MS) for enabling communications with the at least one MS, the system capable of performing a rescue procedure for rescuing a MS for which an acknowledgement failure has been detected, a method for adjusting pilot signal strength add and drop thresholds T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R used by the MS in determining an updated active set of pilots for use by the MS in the rescue procedure, the method comprising:

incrementally lowering T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R by an amount STEP\_dec\_thres at one or more specific time instants t<sub>N</sub>, N = 1,2,...M during the rescue procedure, each time instant separated by a time Td;

incrementally adjusting STEP\_dec\_thres at one or more time instants T<sub>N</sub>; and  
adjusting STEP\_dec\_thres at each time instant T<sub>N</sub>, the step of adjusting STEP\_dec\_thres at each time instant T<sub>N</sub> comprising: by

determining a number of complete rescue cycles K that could be completed before a rescue procedure timer reaches its terminal count[;], and

computing  $(T_{ADD\_H} - MAX\_dec\_thres)/(K-1)$  as a value for STEP\_dec\_thres at each time instant T<sub>N</sub>, wherein T<sub>ADD\_H</sub> is an initial value for T<sub>ADD\_R</sub> at the start of the rescue procedure.

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~The method as recited in claim 7, further including~~ In a system comprising a network and at least one mobile station (MS) for enabling communications with the at least one MS, the system capable of performing a rescue procedure for rescuing a MS for which an acknowledgement failure has been detected, a method for adjusting pilot signal strength add and drop thresholds T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R used by the MS in determining an updated active set of pilots for use by the MS in the rescue procedure, the method comprising:

incrementally lowering T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R by an amount STEP\_dec\_thres at one or more specific time instants  $t_N$ ,  $N = 1, 2, \dots, M$  during the rescue procedure, each time instant separated by a time  $T_d$ ;

incrementally adjusting STEP\_dec\_thres at one or more time instants  $T_N$ ; and  
increasing STEP\_dec\_thres at each time instant  $T_N$ , the step of increasing STEP\_dec\_thres at each time instant  $T_N$  comprising: by

determining a number of complete rescue cycles K that could be completed before a rescue procedure timer reaches its terminal count[;],

determining  $\delta = 2 * (\text{MAX\_dec\_thres}) / (K-1)K$ , where  $\delta$  is an initial value for STEP\_dec\_thres at the start of the rescue procedure[;], and

computing  $\delta * N$  as a value for STEP\_dec\_thres at each time instant  $T_N$ , wherein  $N = 1, 2, \dots, (K-1)$ .

Claim 10 (currently amended): ~~The method as recited in claim 7, further including:~~ In a system comprising a network and at least one mobile station (MS) for enabling communications with the at least one MS, the system capable of performing a rescue procedure for rescuing a MS for which an acknowledgement failure has been detected, a method for adjusting pilot signal strength add and drop thresholds  $T_{ADD\_R}$  and  $T_{DROP\_R}$  used by the MS in determining an updated active set of pilots for use by the MS in the rescue procedure, the method comprising:

incrementally lowering  $T_{ADD\_R}$  and  $T_{DROP\_R}$  by an amount  $STEP\_dec\_thres$  at one or more specific time instants  $t_N$ ,  $N = 1, 2, \dots, M$  during the rescue procedure, each time instant separated by a time  $T_d$ ;

incrementally adjusting  $STEP\_dec\_thres$  at one or more time instants  $T_N$ ;

decreasing  $STEP\_dec\_thres$  at one or more time instants  $T_N$ ,  $N = 1, 2, \dots, M$ , if a difference between a combined pilot  $Ec/Io$  for the updated active set of the MS at a particular time instant  $T_N$  and the combined pilot  $Ec/Io$  for a previous updated active set of the MS at an immediately previous time instant  $T_{N-1}$  is larger than a predetermined threshold; and

increasing  $STEP\_dec\_thres$  at one or more time instants  $T_N$ ,  $N = 1, 2, \dots, M$ , if the difference between the combined pilot  $Ec/Io$  for the updated active set of the MS at the particular time instant  $T_N$  and the combined pilot  $Ec/Io$  for the previous updated active set of the MS at the immediately previous time instant  $T_{N-1}$  is smaller than or equal to a predetermined threshold.

Claim 11 (currently amended): ~~The method as recited in claim 2, further including In a system comprising a network and at least one mobile station (MS) for enabling communications with the at least one MS, the system capable of performing a rescue procedure for rescuing a MS for which an acknowledgement failure has been detected, a method for adjusting pilot signal strength add and drop thresholds T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R used by the MS in determining an updated active set of pilots for use by the MS in the rescue procedure, the method comprising:~~

~~incrementally lowering T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R by an amount STEP\_dec\_thres at one or more specific time instants  $t_N$ ,  $N = 1, 2, \dots, M$  during the rescue procedure, each time instant separated by a time  $T_d$ ;~~

~~lowering T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R in accordance with pilot signal strengths (Ec/Io values) measured at the MS; and~~

~~determining MAX\_dec\_thres, the determination of MAX\_dec\_thres comprising: by~~

~~selecting a desired combined pilot Ec/Io that gives a high probability of producing a good link as  $(Ec/Io)_{desired}[:]$ ,~~

~~measuring or estimating an Ec/Io value from a strongest pilot in the updated active set as  $(Ec/Io)_{max}$ ; and,~~

~~solving  $(Ec/Io)_{max} + (N-1)(Ec/Io)_{min} \geq (Ec/Io)_{desired}$  for  $(Ec/Io)_{min}$ , where N is a maximum allowed active set size[:], and~~

~~computing MAX\_dec\_thres as  $T_{ADD\_R} - (Ec/Io)_{min}$ .~~

Claim12 (currently amended): ~~The method as recited in claim 2, further including:~~ In a system comprising a network and at least one mobile station (MS) for enabling communications with the at least one MS, the system capable of performing a rescue procedure for rescuing a MS for which an acknowledgement failure has been detected, a method for adjusting pilot signal strength add and drop thresholds T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R used by the MS in determining an updated active set of pilots for use by the MS in the rescue procedure, the method comprising:

incrementally lowering T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R by an amount STEP\_dec\_thres at one or more specific time instants t<sub>N</sub>, N = 1,2,...M during the rescue procedure, each time instant separated by a time Td;

lowering T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R in accordance with pilot signal strengths (Ec/Io values) measured at the MS;

measuring Ec/Io for all pilots detectable by the MS having the potentially failing connection;

placing the measured pilots in a list in order of decreasing Ec/Io; and

starting with the pilot in the list having the highest Ec/Io and going through the list in order of decreasing Ec/Io,

measuring the combined Ec/Io for all pilots in the updated active set,

for a current pilot from the list, determining the combined Ec/Io for all pilots in the updated active set plus the current pilot, and

adding the current pilot to the updated active set if the current pilot increased the combined Ec/Io measurement by a predetermined percentage.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method as recited in claim 1, the method for additionally determining an updated active set of pilots for use by the network in the rescue procedure, the method further comprising:

transmitting a uniform energy signal from the MS having the potentially failing connection; and

for each of one or more BSs in a neighborhood of the MS ~~having the potentially failing connection~~, measuring a strength of the uniform energy signal, and adding the BS to the updated active set used by the network if the strength of the uniform energy signal for that BS is above a predetermined threshold.

Claim 14 (currently amended): ~~The method as recited in claim 13, In a system comprising a network and at least one mobile station (MS) for enabling communications with the at least one MS, the system capable of performing a rescue procedure for rescuing a MS for which an acknowledgement failure has been detected, a method for adjusting pilot signal strength add and drop thresholds T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R used by the MS in determining an updated active set of pilots for use by the MS in the rescue procedure, the method comprising:~~

~~incrementally lowering T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R by an amount STEP\_dec\_thres at one or more specific time instants t<sub>N</sub>, N = 1,2,...M during the rescue procedure, each time instant separated by a time Td; and~~

~~determining an updated active set of pilots for use by the network in the rescue procedure by~~

~~transmitting a uniform energy signal from the MS having the potentially failing connection, and~~

~~for each of one or more BSs in a neighborhood of the MS, measuring a strength of the uniform energy signal, and adding the BS to the updated active set used by the network if the strength of the uniform energy signal for that BS is above a predetermined threshold;~~

~~wherein the uniform energy signal is a reverse link pilot signal.~~

Claim 15 (currently amended): ~~The method as recited in claim 13, In a system comprising a network and at least one mobile station (MS) for enabling communications with the at least one MS, the system capable of performing a rescue procedure for rescuing a MS for which an acknowledgement failure has been detected, a method for adjusting pilot signal strength add and drop thresholds T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R used by the MS in determining an updated active set of pilots for use by the MS in the rescue procedure, the method comprising:~~

incrementally lowering T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R by an amount STEP\_dec\_thres at one or more specific time instants t<sub>N</sub>, N = 1,2,...M during the rescue procedure, each time instant separated by a time Td; and

determining an updated active set of pilots for use by the network in the rescue procedure by

transmitting a uniform energy signal from the MS, and for each of one or more BSs in a neighborhood of the MS, measuring a strength of the uniform energy signal, and adding the BS to the updated active set used by the network if the strength of the uniform energy signal for that BS is above a predetermined threshold;

wherein the uniform energy signal is a data signal at a predetermined data rate with predetermined data.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method as recited in claim 1, the method for additionally determining an updated active set of pilots for use by the network in the rescue procedure, the method further comprising:

for each of one or more BSs in a neighborhood of the MS ~~having the potentially failing connection~~, adding the BS to the updated active set used by the network in accordance with a location of the MS and network planning information.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method as recited in claim 1, the MS ~~having the potentially failing connection~~ capable of transmitting a uniform energy signal, the method for additionally determining an updated active set of pilots for use by the network in the rescue procedure, the method further comprising:

for each of one or more BSs in a neighborhood of the MS ~~having the potentially failing connection~~, measuring a strength of the uniform energy signal, and adding the BS to the updated active set used by the network if the strength of the uniform energy signal for that BS is above a predetermined threshold.

Claim 18 (original): The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the uniform energy signal is a reverse link pilot signal.

Claim 19 (original): The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the uniform energy signal is a data signal at a predetermined data rate with predetermined data.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A mobile station (MS) for communicating with a network and for assisting in performing a rescue procedure when ~~the MS has a connection with the network that has become a potentially failing connection~~an acknowledgement failure has been detected, the MS comprising:

a processor programmed for incrementally lowering pilot signal strength add and drop thresholds T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R by an amount STEP\_dec\_thres at one or more specific time instants t<sub>N</sub>, N = 1,2,...M during the rescue procedure, each time instant separated by a time Td; wherein T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R are used by the MS for determining an updated active set of pilots for use in the rescue procedure.

Claim 21 (original): The MS as recited in claim 20, the processor further programmed for lowering T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R in accordance with pilot signal strengths (Ec/Io values) measured at the MS.

Claim 22 (original): The MS as recited in claim 20, the processor further programmed for lowering T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R by not more than an total amount MAX\_dec\_thres during the rescue procedure.

Claim 23 (original): The MS as recited in claim 20, the processor further programmed for incrementally adjusting Td between time instants T<sub>N</sub>.

Claim 24 (original): The MS as recited in claim 21, the processor further programmed for increasing Td between one or more time instants T<sub>N</sub> if a combined pilot Ec/Io for the updated active set of the MS is higher than a predetermined desired combined pilot Ec/Io.

Claim 25 (currently amended): ~~The MS as recited in claim 21, the processor further programmed for: A mobile station (MS) for communicating with a network and for assisting in performing a rescue procedure when an acknowledgement failure has been detected, the MS comprising:~~

a processor programmed for

incrementally lowering pilot signal strength add and drop thresholds

T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R by an amount STEP\_dec\_thres at one or more specific time instants t<sub>N</sub>, N = 1,2,...M during the rescue procedure, each time instant separated by a time Td,

lowering T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R in accordance with pilot signal strengths (Ec/Io values) measured at the MS,

increasing Td between one or more time instants T<sub>N</sub> if a difference between a combined pilot Ec/Io for the updated active set of the MS and the combined pilot Ec/Io for a previous updated active set of the MS is larger than a predetermined threshold[;], and

decreasing Td between one or more time instants T<sub>N</sub> if the difference between the E for the updated active set of the MS and the E for a previous updated active set of the MS is smaller than the predetermined threshold;

wherein T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R are used by the MS for determining an updated active set of pilots for use in the rescue procedure.

Claim 26 (original): The MS as recited in claim 20, the processor further programmed for incrementally adjusting STEP\_dec\_thres at one or more time instants  $T_N$ .

Claim 27 (currently amended): The MS as recited in claim 26, A mobile station (MS) for communicating with a network and for assisting in performing a rescue procedure when an acknowledgement failure has been detected, the MS comprising:

a processor programmed for

incrementally lowering pilot signal strength add and drop thresholds

$T_{ADD\_R}$  and  $T_{DROP\_R}$  by an amount STEP\_dec\_thres at one or more specific time instants  $t_N$ ,  $N = 1, 2, \dots, M$  during the rescue procedure, each time instant separated by a time  $T_d$ .

incrementally adjusting STEP\_dec\_thres at one or more time instants  $T_N$ , and  
the processor further programmed for adjusting STEP\_dec\_thres at each time instant  $T_N$  by[:]

determining a number of complete rescue cycles  $K$  that could be completed before a rescue procedure timer reaches its terminal count[;], and

computing  $(T_{ADD\_H} - MAX\_dec\_thres)/(K-1)$  as a value for STEP\_dec\_thres at each time instant  $T_N$ , wherein  $T_{ADD\_H}$  is an initial value for  $T_{ADD\_R}$  at the start of the rescue procedure;

wherein  $T_{ADD\_R}$  and  $T_{DROP\_R}$  are used by the MS for determining an updated active set of pilots for use in the rescue procedure.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The MS as recited in claim 26, A mobile station (MS) for communicating with a network and for assisting in performing a rescue procedure when an acknowledgement failure has been detected, the MS comprising:

a processor programmed for

incrementally lowering pilot signal strength add and drop thresholds

T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R by an amount STEP\_dec\_thres at one or more specific time instants t<sub>N</sub>, N = 1,2,...M during the rescue procedure, each time instant separated by a time Td,

incrementally adjusting STEP\_dec\_thres at one or more time instants T<sub>N</sub>, and the processor further programmed for increasing STEP\_dec\_thres at each

time instant T<sub>N</sub> by[:]

determining a number of complete rescue cycles K that could be completed before a rescue procedure timer reaches its terminal count[;],

determining  $\delta = 2 * (\text{MAX\_dec\_thres}) / (K-1)K$ , where  $\delta$  is an initial value for STEP\_dec\_thres at the start of the rescue procedure[;], and

computing  $\delta * N$  as a value for STEP\_dec\_thres at each time instant T<sub>N</sub>, wherein N = 1,2,...(K-1);

wherein T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R are used by the MS for determining an updated active set of pilots for use in the rescue procedure.

Claim 29 (currently amended): ~~The MS as recited in claim 26, the processor further programmed for:~~ A mobile station (MS) for communicating with a network and for assisting in performing a rescue procedure when an acknowledgement failure has been detected, the MS comprising:

a processor programmed for

incrementally lowering pilot signal strength add and drop thresholds

T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R by an amount STEP\_dec\_thres at one or more specific time instants t<sub>N</sub>, N = 1,2,...M during the rescue procedure, each time instant separated by a time Td,

incrementally adjusting STEP\_dec\_thres at one or more time instants T<sub>N</sub>,

decreasing STEP\_dec\_thres at one or more time instants T<sub>N</sub>, N = 1,2,...M, if a difference between a combined pilot Ec/Io for the updated active set of the MS at a particular time instant T<sub>N</sub> and the combined pilot Ec/Io for a previous updated active set of the MS at an immediately previous time instant T<sub>N-1</sub> is larger than a predetermined threshold[;], and

increasing STEP\_dec\_thres at one or more time instants T<sub>N</sub>, N = 1,2,...M, if the difference between the combined pilot Ec/Io for the updated active set of the MS at the particular time instant T<sub>N</sub> and the combined pilot Ec/Io for the previous updated active set of the MS at the immediately previous time instant T<sub>N-1</sub> is smaller than or equal to a predetermined threshold;

wherein T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R are used by the MS for determining an updated active set of pilots for use in the rescue procedure.

Claim 30 (currently amended): ~~The MS as recited in claim 21, the processor further programmed for A mobile station (MS) for communicating with a network and for assisting in performing a rescue procedure when an acknowledgement failure has been detected, the MS comprising:~~

a processor programmed for  
incrementally lowering pilot signal strength add and drop thresholds  
T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R by an amount STEP\_dec\_thres at one or more specific time instants t<sub>N</sub>,  
N = 1,2,...M during the rescue procedure, each time instant separated by a time Td,  
lowering T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R in accordance with pilot signal  
strengths (Ec/Io values) measured at the MS, and  
determining MAX\_dec\_thres by[:]  
selecting a desired combined pilot Ec/Io that gives a high probability  
of producing a good link as  $(Ec/Io)_{desired}[:]$ ,  
measuring or estimating an Ec/Io value from a strongest pilot in the  
updated active set as  $(Ec/Io)_{max}$ ; and,  
solving  $(Ec/Io)_{max} + (N-1)(Ec/Io)_{min} \geq (Ec/Io)_{desired}$  for  $(Ec/Io)_{min}$ ,  
where N is a maximum allowed active set size[:], and  
computing MAX\_dec\_thres as  $T\_ADD\_R - (Ec/Io)_{min}$ ,  
wherein T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R are used by the MS for determining an updated  
active set of pilots for use in the rescue procedure.

Claim 31 (currently amended): ~~The MS as recited in claim 21, the processor further programmed for:~~ A mobile station (MS) for communicating with a network and for assisting in performing a rescue procedure when an acknowledgement failure has been detected, the MS comprising:

a processor programmed for

incrementally lowering pilot signal strength add and drop thresholds

T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R by an amount STEP\_dec\_thres at one or more specific time instants t<sub>N</sub>, N = 1,2,...M during the rescue procedure, each time instant separated by a time Td,

lowering T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R in accordance with pilot signal strengths (Ec/Io values) measured at the MS,

measuring Ec/Io for all pilots detectable by the MS having the potentially failing connection[;],

placing the measured pilots in a list in order of decreasing Ec/Io[;], and

starting with the pilot in the list having the highest Ec/Io and going through the list in order of decreasing Ec/Io,

measuring the combined Ec/Io for all pilots in the updated active set, for a current pilot from the list, determining the combined Ec/Io for all pilots in the updated active set plus the current pilot, and

adding the current pilot to the updated active set if the current pilot increased the combined Ec/Io measurement by a predetermined percentage;

wherein T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R are used by the MS for determining an updated active set of pilots for use in the rescue procedure.

Claim 32 (currently amended): A communications system for determining an updated active set of pilots used in a rescue procedure for rescuing a mobile station (MS) having a connection with a network ~~that has become a potentially failing connection for which an acknowledgement failure has been detected~~, the system comprising:

a MS, the MS comprising a processor programmed for incrementally lowering pilot signal strength add and drop thresholds T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R by an amount STEP\_dec\_thres at one or more specific time instants t<sub>N</sub>, N = 1,2,...M during the rescue procedure, each time instant separated by a time Td, wherein T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R are used by the MS for determining the updated active set of MS pilots for use in the rescue procedure, and

transmitting a uniform energy signal during a time when the MS is having the ~~potentially failing connection acknowledgement failure~~; and

a network communicatively coupled to the MS, the network including one or more pilots in a neighborhood of the MS for communicating with the MS, each pilot including a processor programmed for receiving and measuring a strength of the uniform energy signal and adding the pilot to the updated active set used by the network in performing the rescue procedure if the strength of the uniform energy signal is above a predetermined threshold.

Claim 33 (original) The system as recited in claim 32, wherein the uniform energy signal transmitted by the MS is a reverse link pilot signal.

Claim 34 (original) The system as recited in claim 32, wherein the uniform energy signal transmitted by the MS is a data signal at a predetermined data rate with predetermined data.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The system as recited in claim 32, the method for additionally determining the updated active set of pilots for use by the network in the rescue procedure, the method further comprising:

for each of one or more BSs in the neighborhood of the MS ~~having the potentially failing connection~~, adding the BS to the updated active set used by the network in accordance with a location of the MS and network planning information.

Claim 36 (currently amended): A network for communicating with a mobile station (MS) and for assisting in performing a rescue procedure when the MS has a connection with the network ~~that has become a potentially failing connection for which an acknowledgement failure has been detected~~, the MS ~~having the potentially failing connection~~ capable of transmitting a uniform energy signal, the network comprising:

one or more BS sectors in a neighborhood of the MS for communicating with the MS, each BS sector including a processor programmed for receiving and measuring a strength of the uniform energy signal and adding the BS sector to an updated active set used by the network in performing the rescue procedure if the strength of the uniform energy signal is above a predetermined threshold.

Claim 37 (original): The network as recited in claim 36, wherein the uniform energy signal is a reverse link pilot signal.

Claim 38 (original): The network as recited in claim 36, wherein the uniform energy signal is a data signal at a predetermined data rate with predetermined data.

Claim 39 (currently amended): In a system comprising a network and at least one mobile station (MS) for enabling communications with the at least one MS, the system capable of performing a rescue procedure for rescuing a MS having a connection with the network ~~that has become a potentially failing connection for which an acknowledgement failure has been detected~~, a method for adjusting pilot signal strength add and drop thresholds T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R used by the MS ~~having the potentially failing connection~~ in determining an updated active set of pilots for use by the MS in the rescue procedure, the method comprising:

at one or more specific time instants  $t_N$ ,  $N = 1, 2, \dots M$  during the rescue procedure, each time instant separated by a time  $T_d$ ,

computing temporary rescue add and drop threshold values by lowering present values for T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R by an amount STEP\_dec\_thres; and

computing add and drop threshold algorithms specified in Sections 2.6.6.2.5.2 and 2.6.6.2.3 of the IS-2000-5 Standard, respectively, after replacing static add and drop threshold values in those algorithms with the temporary rescue add and drop threshold values, to generate new values for T\_ADD\_R and T\_DROP\_R, respectively.